CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

Graduate Studies News

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From the Dean's Desk

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History

Political Science

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From the Dean's Desk

What Are the Responsibilities of Graduate Students?

Most of our graduate students are enrolled in "master's" programs and although this designation of a graduate degree is largely historical, there is a sense in which it reflects accurately the level of leadership and responsibility assumed in daily life by graduates with this degree. How significant is the particular field that a student has "mastered" for the attainment of a position of leadership and responsibility?

In the June 8th, 1987 issue of "The Administrator – the management newsletter for higher education", several principles of leadership were paraphrased from a text on "Classics in Management", March-April 1987, Hartwick Humanities in Management Institute, that should be food for thought for all our new graduate students as they embark on their first term of specialized study.

"Managers who've studied philosophy and literature often make better leaders than their business school colleagues. From Homer to Hemingway, great books – though rarely assigned in management classes – are the literature of leadership. Five lessons from the classics:

- **Money doesn't motivate.** Pride does. The **Iliad** tells the story of Agamemnon's long struggle to conquer Troy. The Greek leader's misbehavior so turned off Achilles that the great warrior sat out much of the war. After Agamemnon offered him a fortune to rejoin the battle, Achilles said "I hate his gifts."

- **Have a vision. In The Peloponnesian War,** Thucydides tells how Pericles led Athens into its golden age. First, he determined what made his organization different. Then he communicated the differences to group members: A group should feel it is special.

- **Gut feel is everything.** Management by objectives isn't everything. Hunch is. Listening to the inner voice of intuition is critical to effective leadership. If only Othello hadn't lost faith in his intuition. Listening to Iago cost him his career, and his life.

- **Don't categorize people.** Most are maddeningly inconsistent. Read Chaucer's **Canterbury Tales.** The person who seems to be the departmental flake may turn out to be an organizational genius.

- **When you blow it,** admit it. See Sophocles' **Antigone,** in which a manager confuses stubbornness with leadership."

In this context it is interesting to note that the relevance of classical knowledge is being recognized once again even at technical universities. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology will in future require all undergraduates to take courses in such classical subjects as literary traditions and the origins of political institutions. According to Paul E. Gray, the president of MIT, "a professional engineer can no longer be narrowly focused on technical interests. He lives and operates in a social system, and he needs to understand cultural and human values. Humanities courses cannot be viewed merely as frosting on the cake."

"Too many MIT graduates end up working for too many Princeton and Harvard graduates", according to the dean of the School of Humanities and Social Science.

There is no doubt that in addition to superb academic, research and professional skills, a "master" must possess imagination and judgment and that the preoccupation with classical disciplines is an integral part of the development of these qualities. It might be wise for our new generation of graduate students who are just beginning their higher education to reflect on these insights in the months to come.

Concordia University is generally recognized as "a university of applied knowledge". Yet among its highly successful and unique offerings of graduate programs, the "Ph.D. in Humanities" and the relatively new "Master of Arts in Public Policy and Public Administration" represent two areas of strength. Such multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary undertakings indicate that Concordia acknowledges the role and value of a broadly based graduate education for the age in which we live. We are deeply committed to the principle of maintaining a balance between technical and classical disciplines in higher education.

M. E Saba

Graduate History Students Excel in Academic Achievement

Robert Tittler, program director for graduate studies at Concordia's History Department, can't talk about his department without talking about his students. He's proud of their accomplishments, and with good reason. Although the department is small, with 20 Ph.D. candidates and 20 students working on their master's in 1987, it is hotbed of research and activity and has earned a reputation for students who distinguish themselves.

M.A. candidiate Janis Housez's research on English towns in the 16th century so impressed the history department at Bishop's University that she was invited to be a guest lecturer there, and graduate students are being invited to read papers at Learned Society meetings – a privilege usually reserved for university faculty members. Ph.D. candidates Ann McLennan and Michael Duckett are editors of the The Register, Canada's graduate student history journal, which draws its editorial board from eight Canadian univerisities in several provinces.

"The best of our students have distinguished themselves among history students in Canada," says Tittler proudly.

The students' achievements may well be motivated by the intense academic activities of the department's faculty: renowned for their research, they are invited regularly to give endowed lectures at other universities, including lectures funded by the prestigious Andrew Mellon charity foundation. Some were awarded major fellowships at last year's Social Science and Humanities Research Council and the work of Dr. John Laffey was the focus of a panel conference last year. Faculty members have published six books in the last three years and members of the department have been asked to edit a series of monograph.

What draws students to advanced studies in history? "The prime attraction is that people are fascinated by the subject," says Tittler. "They seek personal fulfilment, although there are students who do see it as a stepping stone with an academic career in mind."

The department sees its role as a dual one: it continues to offer graduate work to students who study history out of personal or intellectual interest, while maintaing rigorous standards in academic training. Students seeking traditional careers graduate with a quality education that prepares them for intensive research and teaching positions, while students with other occupations and priorities are provided with the opportunity to research subjects that interest them.

Half of the students now in the program have recently completed their bachelor's degrees and intend to pursue academic careers, but at least half are over 30 and are studying history for other reasons. Although the program requires applicants to have a B.A. with honours in history or its equivalent, it does make exceptions for promising students with honours degrees in other subjects, if they have solid academic backgrounds in history.

In addition to a number of women finishing a second or third degree while raising children, currently enroled in the program are several lawyers, an executive with a shipping company, a retired foreign service officer, several CEGEP and high school teachers, an occupational therapist, two librarians and two journalists.

A number of master's graduates have gone into journalism, law, and government.

One graduate does research for the RSMP, another works in Indian Affairs, and two graduates are working for the Montral Gazette and the Toronto Star. A student who specialized in Asian History is now a full-time far-east financial analyst for a banking institution.

Many students are well into a career by the time they seek graduate studies and Tittler pointed out that not everyone does graduate work as a step to a profession. "We have one doctoral student in his early 80's who told us not to worry about finding him a job," he said.

"In the last two years we have substantially tightened procedures in the program and restructured both the M.A. and Ph.D. programs, which will go into effect next year," said Tittler. "The graduate program is turning a corner and becoming more selective and rigorous. We are becoming leaner and harder – more students who can't complete their work on time are invited to withdraw."

Graduate Students in History: M. Lessard (L) and M.A. Farkas

The graduate program offers a variety of options to satisfy the diverse needs of its students: three 45-credit M.A. options and a 92-credit Ph.D. Students can choose a master's with an original essay, with a thesis or within an interdisciplinary program.

Students choosing the M.A. with the thesis option and those in the doctoral program must be able to read and translate historical documents in a language other than English. Interdisciplinary degrees combine work from disciplines which include anthropology, art history, economics, literature, philosophy, psychology, political science, religion and sociology, and it offers research in the differentiation and identity in the formation of cultures.

Is there any drawback to studying history at a graduate level?

"One does become immersed in it," said Tittler with a smile.

For further details, call (514) 848-2414 or write Robert Tittler, Graduate Program Director for History – Concordia University, 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West, N- 205-13, Montréal, Québec, H3G 1M8.

Public Policy Keeps a Finger on the Pulse of Society

If you have a burning desire to keep on top of social, economic and political trends, Concordia's Public Policy and Public Administration graduate program can help you find the career of you dreams.

"Political science is the prism through which societal, economic, and cultural trends focus with a political emphasis or a political theme," says program director Andy Gollen. "Students emerge with a good sense of how (these forces) affect political trends. They keep their finger on the pulse of the whole enchilada."

This prepares graduates to act as advisors to a number of clients about social change and the future, says Gollen: "The future can't be predicted – and students don't aspire to do that, but the study of public policy is a rational and systematic way of monitoring change in society and developing scenarios of where things can evolve. This makes it possibble for graduate students to advise clients how to take appropriate measures when deciding which way to go."

A strongly interdisciplinary program that is goal and policy-oriented, Public Policy and Public Administration draws the majority of its courses from political science. This prepares students to understand how public policy is made, the forces behind society, and how the system works in this country and comparative settings.

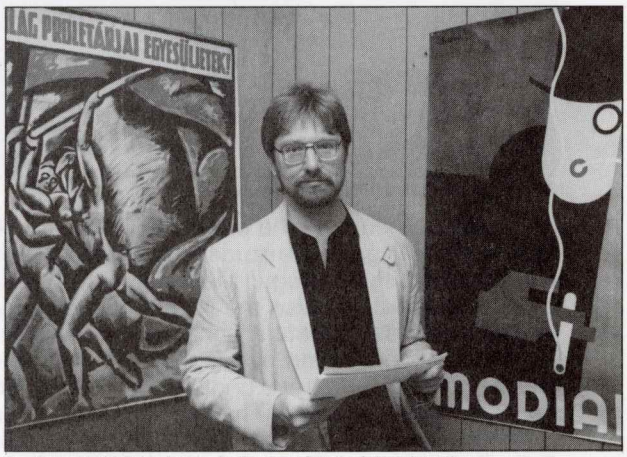
But because there is no such thing as a purely political or social problem, areas of the public arena are always intertwined. Graduates address such problems as multi- dimensional and their research enables society to make better choices for itself and to respond more effectively to improve social and political environments.

Instead of focusing on specific skills, graduate students in the program are educated in a broader sense of society to enhance their employability. The skills they do perfect – such as quantitative skills involving statistics and computer applications – are applied to what they've learned about society, politics and the economic system, which enables them to enter the work force as planners, communicators and managers.

Gollen, who has been director of the program since June 1st and has been with Concordia's Department of Political Science for 10 years, said graduates of the program can expect jobs. One graduate is now an executive advisor to Québec's Minister of Education, others have joined the federal civil service in policy analysis, and some work with the federal treasury board and with the corporate community/public affairs department. Graduates have also found work with lobby groups, special interest groups, and with corporations.

"The main job opportunities are in the corporate sector, in public relations and business-government relations," said Gollen. "The students' skills and abilties to impress employers are decisive, but we equip them to perform in a number of challenging areas."

Feedback from the business community has been positive: "They are very pleased to have graduates who understand the reality of the business world but who also understand how public policy works and how government functions," says Gollen. "(Our graduates) serve as translators between business and government functions. They can advise corporate decision makers on what's happening in society and government in a political and social setting – that's important to business."



Dr. Gollner, GPD for Public Policy and Public Administration

When approved by the Ministry of Education and implemented in 1979, the program was identified as a unique one which filled a gap by supplying consultants to federal and provincial civil services. The first external assessment of the program received rave reviews from the Conseil des Universités, as well as from faculty members of other universities appointed to analyse its success. The program now has one of the largest student enrolments of any political science graduate program in Canada. L'Ecole nationale d'Administration Public is the only other educational institute to offer such a program; it is open, however, only to professionals who have been in public service for five years.

Of the program's three 45-credit options – an M.A. with courses only, an internship option, and a thesis option starting in September 1987 – the internship option has been a very popular one. Because this option provides students with a salaried internship with the federal or provincial civil services, corporations and other organizations such as labour unions and public interest groups, it helps the student get a foot in the door of such agencies. The internships add vital hands-on experience to the academic dimension the students get in class – which is very valuable in the job market. If a student performs well during the internship, there is very often a job waiting after graduation.

The faculty is very excited about the new thesis option effective this September; it allows students to wade deeper into research than previously possible. Theses can research such areas as immigration, tax and employment policy, business and government relations, and bureaucratic reform – including lateral topics and issues, such as how Canada's refugee determination policy compares to those of Germany, Italy and France.

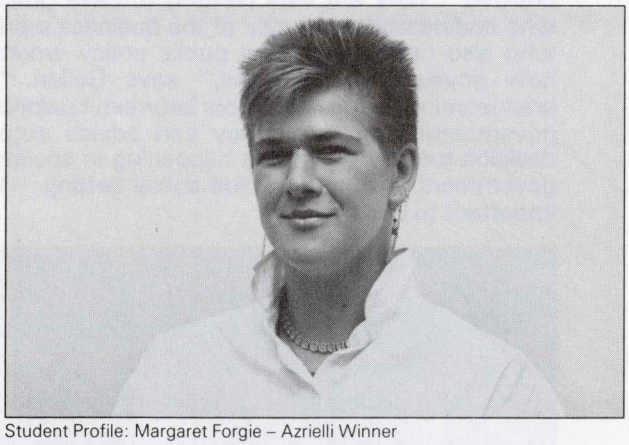
The employability of graduates isn't the program's only attraction; students are often drawn to public policy because it makes them active participants in shaping society. Faculty members and graduates are frequently consulted by the media for analysis of public policy because their research puts them in a good position to voice an informed opinion.

Members of the faculty (which include the current assistant deputy speaker in the House of Commons and the former national director of the federal Liberal party) are most active not just in the library or in the archives, but also they raise public awareness by initiating public debate on policy issues.

"It's exciting when puzzle pieces fall into place to demonstrate something new," explained Gollen. "There is an immediate connection with the desire to understand why things happen the way they do and to be part of social change. We feel we are helping the public make better choices for itself."

For further information on the program, call (514) **848-2106**, or write Dr. A. Gollner, Graduate Program Director – Public Policy and Public Administration, Concordia University, 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West, L-CH-233, Montréal, Québec, H3G 1M8

Graduate Profile: Margaret Forgie



Student Profile: Margaret Forgie – Azrielli Winner

This year's winner of the prestigious David J. Azrieli Fellowship is a graduate student in the M.A. (General) Experimental Psychology. Margaret Forgie won not only this award but also the NSERC Scholarship. An indication of her constant achievement of academic excellence can be seen by the fact that she was also the recipient of numerous undergraduate scholarships as well, most notably, The NSERC Undergraduate Summer Research Award, The Fund for Excellence: B.C. Governement Open Scholarships for Academic Achievement, and the Simon Fraser University Open Tuition Scholarship.

A native of Vancouver, Ms. Forgie chose the Psychology Department at Concordia for its outstanding work in the field of brain stimulation relative to learning and motivation; the work of Drs. Amit, Shizgal and Wise attracted her attention and she hopes to pursue projects "which are directed at investigating the neuro- pharmalogical substrates of drug self-administration and drug and hormone interactions." She acknowledges that the Psychology Department not only has what she needs for her own studies but also that it is the best she could find in this field.

A significant interest of Ms. Forgie's lies in the field of Archeology, which she studied as a second major in undergraduate studies, along with biology. She notes that as one of her long term goals, "I would like to begin to explore the area of ethnopharmacology, using my knowledge from both archeology and psychology to examine cross-cultural differences in drugs and behavior."

Students of this caliber and diverse intellectual interests are a genuine credit to Concordia and we should most warmly welcome her. Good luck and congratulations.

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